

## \$22 air ticket sale

**JETSTAR** Airways has launched a \$22 promotion to help reboot confidence in domestic travel.

More than 500,000 fares went on sale at 12pm AEST today for travel from next month on all domestic routes - **CLICK HERE**.



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## NIB travel insurance pause

**INSURANCE** giant nib has revealed that travel insurance sales in Australia and New Zealand will be paused from 05 Oct as current underwriting arrangements with the AXA-owned XL Insurance Company SE, Australia branch comes to an end.

The company confirmed no traveller who purchases insurance cover before 05 Oct will be impacted by the hiatus, with CEO Mark Fitzgibbon stating nib is in the process of sourcing new underwriting agreements in a bid to deliver appropriate costing that sets the business up for future growth opportunities.

"Refreshing underwriting agreements on a regular basis helps ensure we deliver optimal and sustainable outcomes both commercially and for our customers," he said.

"The ending of current arrangements is obviously disruptive but we will emerge in

better shape as travel and market conditions recover.

"We plan on selling travel insurance to Australian and New Zealand residents as soon as possible to support customers," Fitzgibbon added.

The decision will not impact travellers in other markets, who currently account for roughly three quarters of the company's total travel insurance income.

Nib released its full year results last month (**TD** 23 Aug), with the report laying bare the significant financial impact that travel disruptions have had on its travel insurance divisions, with revenue for the brands dropping by 74.1% on the previous year.

Despite this, Fitzgibbon said at the time that he was confident factors such as policyholder growth would stabilise losses.

## Air NZ adds flights

**AIR** New Zealand has added red lane flights between Australia and NZ for Dec in line with more managed isolation & quarantine rooms becoming available.

Over 30 red flights have been added to the Dec schedule for customers wanting to return from Australia before the end of the year, available to book now.

The red quarantine flights will sit alongside the current list of green quarantine-free services the carrier currently has available in the booking system.

## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has five pages of news.

## Vale Jan McAuliffe

**THE** Australian travel industry has lost another one of its stars, with four-decade stalwart Jan McAuliffe passing away recently.

The travel professional enjoyed stints at agencies such as Pan Australian Travel, Travelrite, Gem Travel, Meridian Travel and Ametco Travel in Melbourne.



## Travel weeks away?

**AUSTRALIA** could open part of its international border within weeks, with Prime Minister Scott Morrison reportedly getting ready to make an announcement soon, *news.com.au* reports.

Talks are understood to be underway between the Prime Minister and the NSW and Vic premiers on how to achieve an open border sooner than initially anticipated given the rate of vaccinations across the states.

## Crystalbrook comp

**CRYSTALBROOK** is offering \$10,000 in resort credits to Australians who share ideas that can help the hospitality industry be more sustainable.

The person with the winning idea will walk away with \$5,000 in credits, while two runner ups will score \$2,500 in resort cash.

To submit your sustainable idea and change the sector for the better, **CLICK HERE**.

News Corp Australia

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## In hot Pursuit of ice

**SEABOURN** Cruise Line has announced *Seabourn Pursuit's* inaugural voyage for 04 Apr 2023.

The construction of the ship is well underway, having began in the northern fall of 2020, and after her delivery she will embark on a Fire and Ice voyage, departing roundtrip from Reykjavik in Iceland.

The cruise will wind along the coast of Iceland and Greenland, with a late night in Akureyri.

## Qatar weathering storm

**DESPITE** the challenges over the last 12 months, Qatar Airways has reported an improved operating loss of US\$288.3 million, marking a boost of 7%.

The carrier also managed to achieve an improvement in EBITDA, recording US\$1.6 billion for the last 12 months, compared to US\$1.4 billion in the previous corresponding period.

QR Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker said that the airline had shown "strength, resilience, and commitment" over the past year in light of the challenging climate, stating the business has never wavered in its commitment to customers and had not shied away from making difficult decisions required for recovery.

"Whilst our competitors grounded their aircraft and closed their routes, we adapted our entire commercial operation to respond to ever-evolving travel

restrictions and never stopped flying, operating a network our passengers and customers could rely on," Al Baker said.

"We also significantly expanded our charter business as a direct response to increased demand... providing vital and reliable services to support our customers during uncertain times."

However the Doha-based carrier did report a net loss of US\$4.1 billion for the latest financial year, with the bulk of the dent created by a one-time impairment charge related to the grounding of its Airbus A380 and A330 fleet.

Looking forward, QR indicated it would look to strengthen partnerships with airlines, invest in more sustainable technology and aviation fuel, as well as launch new routes.

## The best of Brissie

**THE** Brisbane City Council has launched the Brisbane app, a free service for visitors to find out about where the best places to go in the city are.

Features of the app include the ability to access curated guides, detailed up-to-date "what's on" event listings, as well as interactive maps that take the guesswork out of planning.

Famous Brisbane residents have also added their own guides to the city, including former Brisbane Broncos player slammin' Sam Thaiday and indie musician Amy Sheppard.

To mark its launch, a two-week treasure hunt has kicked off on the app, giving users the chance of scoring free coffee and desserts - more details [HERE](#).

## Fast Start launch

**STAYZ** has launched a program to alleviate the "cold start" problem for hosts, in which they do not receive strong return on investment due to a lack of reviews and ratings.

In preparation for the school holidays, Stayz has introduced Fast Start, which allows eligible new properties to display a New to Stayz badge for 90 days, and feature its review score based on its listings on other sites.

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Darwin to Perth

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## Booking appoints

**BOOKING.COM** has promoted Melissa Ellison to be its new Area Manager for Australia, moving into the role from her previous position as Key Account Manager for the Chains team.

Ellison said she would be focusing initially on domestic travel and how best to support the company's partners to recover & grow their businesses.

"As we start to see travel recover in Oceania, Booking.com remains committed to supporting everyone on their journey to getting back to travel, as it becomes safe to do so," she said.

Ellison has been part of the Booking.com team since 2017.

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**HURRY! SALE ENDS 30 SEP 21. TRAVEL UNTIL 30 APR 22.**



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## Say g'day to Bali again

**THE** Bali Hotels Association has launched a new Welcome Back to Bali website, a one-stop trusted information source for holidaymakers to plan and navigate future travel to the island safely and responsibly.

The streamlined, user-friendly website aims to provide travellers with the most recent, factual, and verified information about the current situation on the island, as well as policies and regulations.

Welcome Back to Bali includes sections detailing the latest updates on entry & exit requirements, traveller information, health & safety policies, as well as useful links to supporting resources.

The website will be updated on a regular basis informed by updates from local authorities.

Bali Hotels Association Chair Jean Heliere said Welcome Back to Bali was an important step in reopening the Indonesian

island soon to the world, stating it was time to present a united approach to rebooting tourism through the new online resource.

Bali is a major market for Australian travellers, with around 1.23 million Australian tourists in visiting the island in 2019.

**CLICK HERE** to visit the new site.

## Time to get TravLin

**TRAVLIN** Travel's Linda Foster has created a new motivational video to help support the #vaxready #gettravelready #givetravelashot campaigns.

A follow up to last year's *Travel Agents' COVID-19 in 2020: A call to Save the Travel Industry*, the new video illustrates the continued struggles of the pandemic, which has since affected domestic travel.

A special mention is given to Oskar Proy, whose original track is used in the video - **CLICK HERE**.

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## Kimberley in style

**CRUISE** Traveller is inviting tourists to discover the wild Kimberley coast in Jun-Jul aboard an ultra-luxury book-by-the-cabin superyacht, *Phoenix One*.

In conjunction with YOTSPACE, the cruises last from six to 10 nights travelling between Broome and Darwin, including a sailing exclusive to Cruise Traveller which also offers passengers a complimentary bonus gift.

Each indulgent voyage can be enjoyed by just eight guests across four cabins, with cruises exempt from COVID-19 govt ship restrictions which currently affect larger vessels.

YOTSPACE's superyachts feature bespoke itineraries, deluxe cabins, plush lounges, deck-top jacuzzis, included gourmet chef-made meals and an open bar serving drinks all day.

Off-ship adventures are also included, as are light plane transfers to *Phoenix One* in Darwin and Broome.



## Window Seat

**A PROTESTOR** who glued himself to the top of a British Airways Embraer jet has been sentenced to one year in prison by the Southwark Crown Court in the United Kingdom.

James Brown was found to have caused disruption to 300 pax and cost the airline around £40,000 when he clambered on to the roof of the plane with a bottle of glue that he had concealed in his luggage, glueing his hand to the fuselage.

The former Paralympian argued in court that the right to protest was crucial in raising awareness of the climate crisis, however, the judge did not see it this way, stating that protests do not give people the right to disrupt large-scale airports, no matter how noble protestors may view the cause.

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## Stage and Screen presents...



**FLIGHT** Centre's entertainment travel division Stage and Screen recently had the pleasure of presenting the Civoniceva Medal to Wynnum Manly Seagulls Hooker Jayden Berrell for being the best player in the Intrust Super Cup at the Queensland Rugby League (QRL) Awards.

The brand's General Manager Adam Moon said it was an honour to be part of the ceremony after being associated with the QRL sporting organisation for over a decade.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, Queensland has been

in the fortunate position to welcome crowds regularly to both NRL and QRL games, providing raucous entertainment for sports fans across the country - we're delighted to have been able to facilitate travel up and down the state for the QRL," Moon said.

QRL also thanked Stage and Screen during the ceremony for always being a reliable partner in organising the competition's many travel arrangements.

**Pictured:** Adam Moon with the medal recipient Jayden Berrell, and former rugby league legend Petero Civoniceva.



## AFTA UPDATE

from the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

**JUST** as the green shoots of spring are starting to show, the reality of a more normal way of living is just around the corner.

What exactly that "new normal" will look like, which will depend

on which state or territory you're in, will see the easing up of restrictions in the core driver markets of Sydney and Melbourne.

The fuelling of consumer and corporate confidence that will flow from this should not be underestimated.

But as we keep saying, we need more than confidence.

We need support now and until international travel and cruising are well and truly back to normal.

Austrade have confirmed they are edging ever closer to finalising outstanding claims under Round 2 of the Consumer Travel Grant.

It shouldn't be this hard and it shouldn't take this long.

We urgently need these outstanding cases finalised.

It's already dire and getting worse and we need a commonsense approach rapidly injected into making sure the



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF TRAVEL AGENTS

delivery of the Grant supports the political intent to support our sector through this so we can keep supporting consumers.

We continue to provide feedback to government and are pushing for

finalisation of Round 3.

AFTA also continues to lobby hard on the desperate need for a more effective rollout of the Federal Government's 80% Loan Guarantee - despite the intent, the reality is that too many banks still classify our sector as high risk, rendering the guarantee ineffective and leaving travel businesses with no hope of access.

Behind the scenes, the work continues to future proof our sector and organisation.

As part of this, AFTA's Constitutional Review is underway.

As flagged in our AFTA annual report, the Board Sub-Committee will oversee the evolution of our constitution and the review of our membership structure which is now in place.

And we keep doing what we can to bring forward as many green shoots as possible.



Bake along with us in September, with different recipes each week.

Send us a picture of your baked goods, along with any extra tips or secret ingredients or variations, and the best one will win a \$50 gift voucher. Email [bakeoff@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:bakeoff@traveldaily.com.au)

This week's recipe:

**YOUR FAMILY'S FAVOURITE CAKE, BISCUIT OR SLICE**







Travel Daily

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## P&O flies the flag

**P&O** Cruises Australia is set to broadcast its Fly the Flag for P&O Live event direct from *Pacific Adventure* next month.

The unique show will be hosted by P&O Australia's popular entertaining duo, the newly engaged Julie and Leeron, and will see the line make a powerful case for cruise to return.

The evening event on 14 Oct will be packaged in a fast-paced chat show format, and will be a virtual take on P&O's popular entertainment program.

## Air NZ SAF deal

**AIR** New Zealand and the country's Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) have joined forces to scope out sustainable aviation fuel.

As part of the airline's journey to net zero, the two will run a closed request for proposal process inviting leaders in innovation to demonstrate the feasibility of operating a sustainable aviation fuel plant at a commercial scale in NZ.

The airline's Chief Operational Integrity & Safety Officer, David Morgan, said the partnership with MBIE is an important step in addressing the challenges and opportunities of producing sustainable aviation fuel in New Zealand - a critical step in aviation decarbonisation.

## MONEY

**WELCOME** to Money, *TD's* Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

**AU\$1 = US\$0.727**

**THE** Australian dollar has outperformed expectations overnight, as one of the world's strongest currencies.

Worries about the United States' debt ceiling weighed on the USD, which saw the AUD gain 0.4% against the USD.

The AUD was higher in most other markets also, with the AUDEUR up 0.6% and the AUDJPY up 0.7%.

*Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.727
UK	£0.530
NZ	\$1.032
Euro	€0.621
Japan	¥80.78
Thailand	฿24.29
China	¥4.649
South Africa	10.82
Canada	\$0.914
Crude oil	US\$79.53

## Vaxxed the way

**ONLINE** travel agency Agoda has announced it will be offering a range of discounted packages and deals to fully vaccinated Australians as part of its newly launched Vaxxed To Go campaign.

Travellers can browse through the list of the OTA's discounts on offer **HERE**, while the company has also revealed it will be donating \$15 for each booking, (up to a maximum of \$13,500), towards Save the Children educational activity packs to support children's continued learning and emotional wellbeing.

"Joint initiatives like this are just part of the efforts being made to kick-start the recovery of the travel and hospitality sector in Australia...and inspire people to travel again," Agoda said.

## International Poke Day



**TODAY** marks the celebration of International Poke Day, an excellent way to solve the question of what will I have for lunch today.

Poke is a dish which originated in Hawaii and consists usually of raw fish mixed with a range of spices, first enjoyed as a snack by

local fisherman.

Today poke has spread around the world and has picked up influences from Korea, Japan and the Philippines including using ingredients like soy sauce, wasabi and green onions.

Don't forget to celebrate today with your own poke bowl.

## Pullman power fit

**PULLMAN** Hotels & Resorts has unveiled the "Fitness Squad" - a group of fitness ambassadors from around the world chosen to lead the company's various wellbeing and fitness initiatives.

Made up of Fiona Fransisca, Gary Mulholland, Anthony Oxford, James Thomas, Maxime Vigeant, and Jojo ZhouRong, the Fitness Squad will oversee the full range of Pullman X Les Mills live classes, on-property bootcamps and other special events.

## GC walks for future

**DESTINATION** Gold Coast met with local tourism operators for World Tourism Day yesterday, conducting a walk and talk meeting with the sector to stand "shoulder to shoulder" with them amid the current travel crisis.

The tourism body estimates that visitor expenditure in the region is down almost \$1 billion for the Sep quarter compared to the same month pre-COVID, forecasting a loss of \$326 million during the month of Sep alone.

**Got a confidential tip? Contact Travel Daily via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click [HERE](#)**



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[www.traveldaily.com.au](http://www.traveldaily.com.au)

*Travel Daily* is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994, *Travel Daily* is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

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